

From: mo1...@aol.com (Mo10Cav)
Subject: PARSONS, TSM & THE KING'S SHILLING
Date: 1996/04/15
Message-ID: <829580262\$2089@atype.com>
X-Deja-AN: 147602422
sender: ro...@newsbf02.news.aol.com
organization: America Online, Inc. (1-800-827-6364)
return-path: <ro...@newsbf02.news.aol.com>
reply-to: mo1...@aol.com (Mo10Cav)
newsgroups: misc.activism.militia

"THE KING'S SHILLING"

10 April 1996

by Mike Vanderboegh, Bvt. Col.
1st Alabama Cavalry Regiment, Militia (-)

Since my election to the Tri-States Militia Network National Board in October of last year, I have come to know and love John Parsons as a brother-in-arms. Even now, with the revelation he has accepted (since September last) almost \$1800.00 per month from FBI Special Agent Bill Grode to defray his personal expenses while serving as Commander of Tri-State's National Information Center, I find it hard to believe that John Parsons acted as a "paid informant" to the Clinton Administration or as a "traitor" to the constitutional militia movement. Since this story broke, I have been sickened by the revelations, the charges and counter-charges--- sickened, angered and dismayed.

After long personal conversations with both Col. Parsons and Special Agent (SA) Grode, independent review of their testimony in the Lampley case, and careful reconstruction of the timeline of Parsons' actions (including comparing notes with other TSM board members, gathering testimony and documentation from personnel staffing the N.I.C., etc.), I have come to the conclusion that SA Grode's motives were probably as stated: that he viewed Parsons as a responsible militia leader and someone who should remain in a position to help FBI-militia communication during times of crisis. I have also concluded that Parsons' actions in accepting the monthly payments were motivated by acute personal need, and that had he not accepted the money he would have had to leave N.I.C., which would have folded without his guidance and tireless work. I have also concluded that probably no "tainted" money was used to support the N.I.C. and there seems to have been no compromise of N.I.C. security or operations, except that of John Parson's judgement.

Yet for all that I would have rather have lost N.I.C. than the reputation of John Parsons and Tri-State Militia Network. Indeed, far harder to explain is the \$500.00 per week that John Parsons was paid for a

three-week sweep of the Southwest visiting militia contacts, including some folks who later became TSM board members. The timing of this trip, and its itinerary, leaves little doubt that Parsons was in this case acting as a "paid informant" of the FBI.

This may be the death of Tri-States, although I hope not. John Parsons is not the sum total of Tri-states, nor vice versa. The tri-States concept was and is a good one. the actions of one man, however flawed, should not be allowed to destroy an entire organization. Nevertheless, it is entirely likely to do so, for Cpl. Parsons' ill-considered action strikes at the heart of our, or any, movement-- trust. We must have trust that what our comrades say is motivated by principle not pay. Even if I accept that Col. Parsons did not betray any militia "secrets", I can hardly expect someone who has no personal knowledge of him to accept my analysis without suspicion. "Can ye take the King's shilling and not be the King's man?" is the question that has been asked throughout time by fearful plotters in freedom's cause. The answer is almost always "NO." You cannot be partly compromised, just as you cannot be partly pregnant. You are, or you are not. There is nothing "partly" about it.

I would like to make clear that for me, the money issue stands apart from all other actions of Parsons and Tri-States since the bomb plot was first broached to Parsons by Lampley. I believe that the course of action Parsons took in the Lampley case (working with local law enforcement and the FBI) was correct. Further, I believe that Tri-States' position on condemning terrorism regardless of its source-- out-of-control government or hate filled anti-Semitic "prophets"-- is the proper one. Finally, I believe the work Tri-States has done to support the local sheriff and citizenry in the Montana situation is correct, as are its efforts (in concert with M.O.M. and the FBI) to defuse the standoff.

The tragedy is that all those Tri-States' positions which I know were taken out of principle now look to the suspicious or the uninitiated as having been motivated by FBI money. No allegation could be further from the truth, nor harder to deny. The irony is that with this incident, FBI-militia relations will be perhaps permanently soured. Many constitutional militias who might work with law enforcement will now think twice for fear of being branded "paid informants." There ARE constitutionally-minded agents in the FBI. We MUST work with them when we can. But we must NEVER take pay for the duty.

The FBI has long been quite skilled at taking over and manipulating opposition groups from the Communist Party USA to the Ku Klux Klan to the Black Panthers. Why should we expect them to regard the militia movement any differently, particularly once the "Terror" Bill passes? Certainly our ancestors had to deal with men such as Dr. Benjamin Church and

Benedict Arnold. The presence of traitors did not stop them. Yet knowing that there will be misguided men such as John Parsons, paid snitches like Schrum or agents provocateur like Crowe, Glover and Waterhouse-- what then shall we do? Do we say, as some are doing now: "The hell with a national network group. The hell with a constitutional militia. You build something up and it's torn down in an instant. I'm going to move up into the hills and live free on my own terms. Let them come after me and my Barrett Light Fifty....."?

And if enough of us withdraw from the movement and leave it to the provocateurs, the spies and the fools, who then will stop our Republic from collapsing, our people from being our children from being made into historical amnesiacs who know nothing of liberty and responsibility and everything about entitlements and "political correctness"?

As for me, I am in this movement for the long haul. They may kill me, but they won't change my mind. If Tri-States Militia Network does not survive, do not despair, there will be another. Of course this crisis, as with most crises, could not have come at a worse time. The national command seminar (hosted by Col. John Hassey's Alabama Constitutional Militia and my own 1st Alabama Cavalry Regiment) is in two-and-a-half weeks. Commitments have been made, plans near completion and money has already been spent in preparation. A quick canvas of Tri-States affiliated units after the Parsons' news broke shows that most wish the meeting to go on as scheduled. Some Tri-States National Board members have already tendered their resignations over the Parsons issue. Some affiliated units have announce their intention to withdraw from TSM. I will not seek to change their minds, but I do wish to reiterate that the meeting is hosted by Alabama units and is open to all, Tri-States affiliated or not. We still hope for maximum participation. Much can yet be achieved, whether Tri-States survives or not.

In conclusion, it is with great personal pain and reluctance that I announce my resignation from the Tri-States Militia Network National Board, to be effective the day after the national command seminar, 29 April 1996. I wish I saw another way to deal with this regrettable situation with honor, but I do not. I have tried to understand John Parsons' motives for "taking the King's shilling", but I do not agree with them. It is my belief that John Parsons lied to me personally as well as the other members of the National Board. I cannot acquiesce to this intolerable situation in silence. Still, it is to my undying regret that other Tri-Statens and me did not monetarily support the N.I.C. as much as we might have (indeed, as much as we PROMISED to do), thus failing to save Col. Parsons from the Devil's deal he believes he was forced to make.

Mike Vanderboegh, Bvt. Col.
1st Alabama Cavalry Reg't, Militia (-)

UPDATE 14 APRIL 1996:

Board members and others still in contact with Col. Parsons report that he is considering resigning from Tri-States, "for the good of the movement." If Col. Parsons has not resigned by the time of the Alabama meeting, other board members, including myself, are going to ask for a vote of the board to conduct a "court of inquiry" on the activities of Col. Parsons and the N.I.C. The charge: "Conduct unbecoming a militia officer." The punishment if found guilty by trial of his brother officers: Expulsion from Tri-States. (No other punishment being legally enforceable). It is intended that this inquiry's record be publicly distributed afterward, and the inquiry itself will be open to all who wish to attend. Patriot media will be present to cover the entire affair.

On another note: Parsons is reported to be receiving death threats. Let no one be confused about this: Whatever John Parsons' mistakes of judgement or failings of character are, I believe them to have been motivated solely by an earnest desire to see that no more Oklahoma City bombings occur. Anyone who wishes to kill John Parsons "as a traitor" will have to come through me first, or look out for me after the fact. Actually, only the Clinton Administration could gain by his death now (which causes me some concern for his safety wherever he ends up). Those cowards who threaten death from a far-off pay phone or clandestine computer terminal should know the John Parsons I know: the man who, in the middle of life-threatening blizzard a couple months back, ventured out to try find an elderly man who had wandered away from home. The man who, before the subornation of his honor by the FBI, was (and perhaps still is) an American patriot. Whatever his failings, his heart is as big as all outdoors. If in the end his heart was bigger than his judgement, he certainly does not merit death at the hands of Lampley-lovers. But of course their type lacks the courage to take on a man like John Parsons.

-- Mike Vanderboegh